

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 AF-06 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /053 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/I/AADAVIS:TMG

APPROVED BY OES/AST/SA:DAVOGT

NASA/ER/JRMORRISON (PHONE)

AF/AFN:MRS. KING

NASA/I/JVZIMMERMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS STATE 015879

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: NASA EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE (LANDSAT) INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM.

1. ON FEB. 12, 1975, NASA FORWARDED PROVISIONS FOR PARTICIPATION TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON SPACE PROGRAMS FOR GOL SIGNATURE IN ORDER TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MUFTAH UNIS TO PARTICIPATE AS A PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IN LANDSAT PROGRAM. HOWEVER, NASA HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A REPLY. PROVISIONS FORWARDED IN RESPONSE TO GOL INVESTIGATION PROPOSAL TO NASA.
2. TIME IS BECOMING IMPORTANT FACTOR. TO DATE, NASA HAS HELD OPEN A SEGMENT OF ITS SATELLITE DATA GATHERING CAPACITY PENDING LIBYA'S DECISION TO USE IT. HOWEVER, SINCE FORWARD OF PROVISIONS, ONE OF TWO ONBOARD TAPE RECORDERS HAS FAILED, SEVERELY LIMITING COVERAGE CAPABILITY. ALSO, OTHER SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR SATELLITE SERVICE ARE BEING MADE TO NASA, PARTICULARLY FROM OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS.

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NASA UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY RESPOND BECAUSE OF PRIOR COMMIT-

MENT TO PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS.

3. IN SHORT, STRIGENT SATELLITE SCHEDULE, TAPE RECORDER LIMITATIONS, AND OTHER USER DEMANDS ARE MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR NASA TO RESERVE CAPACITY FOR LIBYA MUCH LONGER IN

ABSENCE OF RECEIPT OF SIGNED PROVISIONS.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO GOL, AND ADVISE NASA WHETHER THERE IS POSITIVE INDICATION OF INTENT TO SIGN AND WHEN RECEIPT MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

5. REQUEST VERBAL EXPLANATION OF FOLLOWING DEADLINES TO GOL: BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS STATED ABOVE, NASA WILL HOPE FOR RESPONSE FROM GOL IN SIX WEEKS. IF SIGNED PROVISIONS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN TWO MONTHS, NASA WILL BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE GOL NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PURSUING INVESTIGATION AND WILL CONSIDER MATTER CLOSED. HOWEVER, HOPES ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE FINALIZED. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ERTS, SPACE PROGRAMS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE015879
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0647
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760131/aaaabaxx.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NASA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NASA EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE (LANDSAT) INVESTI- GATIONS PROGRAM.
TAGS: TSPA, LY, US
To: TRIPOLI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006